

SALEM COMPASS

Volume 1, Issue 1 July 7, 2023



Mayor's Message



Dear resident,

Welcome to the first issue of the Salem Compass, the new newsletter from the Mayor's Office here at City Hall! You can sign up to receive the newsletter by email at www.salemma.gov/subscribe and issues will always be available at www.salemma.gov/salemcompass.

Today is the 41st day since my inauguration and it's been a whirlwind few weeks. I'm enormously grateful to all the City staff, board volunteers, community partners, and state and local officials who have been key partners in helping to keep our City moving forward.

Together, in these 41 days, we've finished up the FY2024 City budget process (you can find it online at www.salemma.gov/fy24), commenced the 11th year of our free Trolley rides, started the next phase of the Charlotte Forten Memorial public art project, formed the Salem High School building committee, launched a new program to preserve existing affordable rental units across the city, expanded our Bluebikes bike share program, kicked off the

next round of Festival Grants, once again earned the Arbor Day Foundation TreeCity USA distinction, ended late fines at the Salem Public Library, instituted free parking for our veterans, and – of course – celebrated Pride Month, Juneteenth, and Independence Day, not to mention the graduation of the Class of 2023 from Salem High School, Salem Academy Charter School, the New Liberty Innovation School, and Salem Prep High School.

I'm also excited to introduce my staff here at City Hall. Sabrina Trask is our Office Director here, Julio Mota is our Constituent Services Director and Latino Affairs Coordinator, Michael Corley is the Constituent Services and Special Projects Assistant, Lori Stewart is our Neighborhood Stability Coordinator, and Lisa Peterson has joined our team as the Chief of Staff. If you have the opportunity, please feel free to stop by our offices at City Hall and say hello!

In my inaugural address in May I spoke about "the Salem that's ahead of us." It's a city that, I believe, can both recognize our past and be optimistic about our future, a city that is inspired by our history and motivated by our possibility. I'm honored to have your trust and your partnership to lead this city toward that future, and I always will be, every single day I have the remarkable opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

Dominick Pangallo
Mayor
City of Salem

CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE:

PHONE:
(617) 619-5600

EMAIL:
mayor@salem.com

WEB:
salemma.gov/mayor

FACEBOOK:
City of Salem MA

TWITTER:
[@CityofSalem](https://twitter.com/CityofSalem)

INSTAGRAM:
[cityofsalem](https://www.instagram.com/cityofsalem)

CHIEF OF STAFF:
Lisa Peterson
lpeterson@salem.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Right to First Refusal	2
Forest River Pool Now Open	2
Polystyrene Ban	3
Bluebikes Expansion	3
Veterans Park Free	4
Salem Public Library Fine Free	4
Negro Election Day Celebrations	5
Coming Up July 10th to July 23rd	6



On June 6th, the City launched a new program to help preserve multi-family rental housing in Salem. The "Right of First Refusal" (RFR) initiative utilizes funds from the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to offer the owners of residential rental properties a one-time payment of \$1,000 in return for the City being provided a right of first refusal should the property ever be put up for sale. Property owners who enter into an RFR agreement with

Right of First Refusal

the City consent to notify the City of the terms that they are willing to accept for their property, before listing the property for sale. The offered terms must be reasonable and comparable to the market. The City has 120 days to accept the terms, after which time the owner can then move forward with publicly listing the property for sale.

The RFR is not a requirement to sell the property to the City or to anyone. It is only triggered if the property owner decides to sell the property. Applications for RFR Agreements, as well as more information about eligibility and program details, can be found at <https://www.salemma.gov/mayors-office/pages/right-first-refusal-program>

Forest River Pool Now

Forest River Pool opened for the season on June 27th! Join us for nine weeks of open swim, water aerobics, or one of our other aquatic programs. See below for helpful links:

FAQ

<https://frfr.my.canva.site/frpool#page-0>

TO BUY A POOL PASS

https://salemma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30580&AdminPreview=1

REGISTER FOR FREE SWIM LESSONS

https://salemma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30590

POOL SCHEDULE

<https://www.salemma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf7986/f/pages/2023poolschedule.pdf>



For more information regarding membership fees and daily passes or to apply for financial assistance (Salem residents only), please visit <https://www.salemma.gov/home/news/forest-river-pool-opening-day>

Please direct all questions about programming to grinarmlg@northshoreymca.org.

Polystyrene Ban Goes into Effect September 4

Polystyrene (aka Styrofoam), commonly used in food packaging such as takeout containers, is a non-biodegradable substance that cannot be recycled. In recognition of the damaging effects of polystyrene packaging on public health and the environment, the City of Salem has passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of foam polystyrene food and packaging containers by food service establishments and retailers.

As of September 4, 2023, restaurants will no longer be allowed to use Styrofoam clam-shell packaging for takeout orders or Styrofoam plates and cups for food service. Grocers may not use Styrofoam trays for packaging meats or produce. Retailers of all sizes may not stock and/or sell Styrofoam packaging such as plates or cups

Styrene, the key ingredient in polystyrene, was recently added to the National Toxicology Program's list of carcinogens (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). Styrene can leach from food containers into



the food and beverages we consume.

The Sustainable Food Packaging Ordinance will be enforced by the Salem Board of Health. Businesses may refer to this [FAQ](#) to help answer any additional questions and for contact information. Read the full announcement at <https://www.salemma.gov/home/news/city-salem-sustainable-packaging-ordinance>

For more information, contact the City's Waste Management Coordinator, Janelle Rolke by calling (978) 619-5673 X46204 or emailing jrolke@salem.com



On June 29th, Mayor Dominick Pangallo announced that the City of Salem has expanded the capacity and reach of the City's Bluebikes bikeshare program with three new stations and 18 additional bikes.

Bluebikes Program Expansion

With support from a Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Community Connections grant, new stations were deployed in June in Vinnin Square, Bridge Street Neck, and on Derby Street.

If you find a stray Bluebike, please return it to the nearest station or report it to Bluebikes customer service at bluebikes.com/contact or 1-855-948-2929.

For more information, contact Lisa Peterson, Chief of Staff by calling 978-619-5600 or emailing lpeterson@salem.com.

Veterans Park Free in Salem

Effective June 5th, any individual with a Veteran license plate may park for free at any on or off-street metered City parking space, as well as in any off-street City parking lot requiring payment via a kiosk or app-based payment within Salem. A list of eligible Veterans license plates, as issued by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, can be found at www.mass.gov/service-details/veteran-and-military-license-plates.

“Salem honors and respects those who have served our nation when our country has needed them,” said Mayor Pangallo, “I stand with the members of our City Council, who unanimously approved this change, in expressing our City’s deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by our service members. This new policy is one way our community can share our gratitude for all that our veterans have done for us.”



Beginning immediately, any vehicle with a Veteran license plate may park for free at any on or off-street metered City parking space, or any City-owned surface lot space requiring payment via a kiosk or using app-based payment. The policy does not include fees for parking in garages. This policy applies only to parking fees and does not invalidate any other underlying regulation governing a parking space. All non-fee related regulations – such as time limits, no parking restrictions, resident parking rules, and so forth – remain in effect. Questions about this new regulation can be directed to the Traffic and Parking Department at (978) 745-8120.



Salem Public Library No Longer Charges Overdue Fines

On July 3rd, Mayor Dominick Pangallo announced that the Salem Public Library has ended its practice of charging overdue fines. Additionally, the Library now offers automatic renewals of items. Titles that are eligible for renewal will be automatically renewed on their due date, with no action necessary by the borrower. Titles with waiting lists, items that have reached the maximum number of renewals, and items

owned by other libraries will not be automatically renewed. If a patron keeps an item beyond the maximum number of allowable renewals they may still be charged the replacement fee for a lost item.

To read the full announcement, visit <https://www.salemma.gov/home/news/salem-public-library-no-longer-charges-overdue-fines>

To learn more about the elimination of overdue fines at the Salem Public Library, visit: <https://salempl.org/fine-free/>. Please contact the Library at 978-744-0860 if you have any questions.



A ceremony commemorating the local tradition "Negro Election Day" will occur Friday July 14th 12:00pm at Riley Plaza.

All members of the public are invited to attend!

Massachusetts was the first to celebrate Negro Election Day, 1741, in New England. Negro Election Day is in honor of the first black voting system in our country. The first parade was to introduce the first Black King, when he would ride on his horse with his court.

In supporting our parade, you support and celebrate the black community and black history. Our parade wants to show the community and our youth that their future matters because their past is important to their grown.

Our 2023 Negro Election Day Parade theme: Celebrating Our Black Warriors, our Heroes & Sheroes is in honor of the enslaved Africans who contributed to the History of Negro Election Day in 1741.

Join us for the 283rd year of Negro Election Day and our Negro Election Day Parade, July 15, 2023 at 12:00 noon EST!



NEGRO ELECTION DAY PARADE

JULY 15, 2023

11:30 LINE UP
PARADE
12:00 PM

BEGINS AT SHETLAND INDUSTRIAL PARK, 27 CONGRESS STREET

ENDS AT SALEM WILLOW PARK

(781) 502-5512

WWW.SALEMUNITEDINC.ORG

Coming Up July 10th - July 23rd

For more details about items on this calendar and the most up to date calendar of City meetings and events, please visit www.salemga.gov/calendar.

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p>10</p> <p>State Senator Joan Lovely Public Office Hours - CLC 11am to 12pm</p> <p>Salem Food for All Meeting 7/10/23 6:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Salem Rights Human Coalition Meeting 5:30 to 6:30pm</p> <p>Community Preservation Committee 6pm</p> <p>AHTF Regular Meeting 6:30 to 9:30pm</p> <p>Board of Health Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Housing Stability Housing Services - Espacio Drop-in Hours; Información y recursos de vivienda gratuitos para propietarios e inquilinos de Salem - Espacio 9am to 2pm</p> <p>Traffic and Parking Commission Meeting 6pm</p> <p>Salem Housing Authority Public Hearing 6:00 to 8:30pm</p> <p>Salem Redevelopment Authority Meeting 6pm</p> <p>Neighborhood Improvement Advisory Council meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Housing Stability Housing Services - CLC Drop-in Hours; Información y recursos de vivienda gratuitos para propietarios e inquilinos de Salem - Centro de Vida Comunitaria 4:00 to 7:00pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Negro Election Day flag Raising 12pm—1pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Negro Election Day Parade 12:15—1:15pm</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>State Rep. Manny Cruz Public Office Hours—CLC 9:30am to 11:00am</p> <p>Salem School Committee - Building & Grounds Subcommittee Meeting 3:00pm</p> <p>Tree Commission Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Commission on Disabilities Meeting 4:30pm</p> <p>Public Art Commission Monthly Meeting 6:30pm</p> <p>Park and Recreation Commission Monthly Meeting 6:45pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Historical Commission Meeting 6pm</p> <p>Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting 6:30pm to 10:00pm</p> <p>Veterans Council Monthly Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Salem School Committee - Personnel Subcommittee Meeting 4pm</p> <p>Housing Stability Housing Services - Espacio Drop-in Hours; Información y recursos de vivienda gratuitos para propietarios e inquilinos de Salem - Espacio 4pm to 7pm</p> <p>Planning Board 6:30pm to 8pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>